My dear Tom Albano 11th September 1837.

I dare say you will all be alarmed at the sad accounts from Rome of the Cholera, all of which I fear are too true, we are here in a safe place with every possible comfort, and I can pursue my painting— You have never written me again yet— nor do I know if Mr Fleetwood has both his pictures, for when Charles wrote he never mentioned it— my wife will finish this to Maria as I have much to do— Give dear Miss Emma my most affectionate regards to you all I am ever Your's J.S

Severn begs me to send you a few lines to assure you that we are all safe and at a distance from the Cholera which is doing so much mischief in Rome, and we have lost [illegible] many friends. As once here in safety after the dreadful accounts we had every fearful recollection in my mind both for myself & my children as we are at present shut up from business and at one accidental death that our foresight could have prevented & we are reconciled to it as the will of God. By other letters my mother & sisters & brothers are well & enjoying themselves as much as the dreadful state of Rome will admit of the Cholera is extended in the Kingdom of Naples so that we hope the couple the Charles, and perhaps our time very pleasantly amongst the Peasantry, wandering through their

beautiful Vineyards, Gone other lone and a more civilized part of the World one hardly finds one (mode / mode of living) here, every thing is primitive Peace and plenty, but without money, each person lives on the produce of his bit of Ground which supplies him with Corn, Oil, Wine, and Fruits and Vegetables — also knit to make their linen. It is a quiet Village amongst the mountains or beautifully situated that we intend to pass next Summer here: we like the People so much and they are so beautiful that Lenore finds enough to occupy him, he is now painting several (heads / heads) to send to London for sale as he cannot go on with his large works when one all on board, we are shut up here as if the plague surrounded us, and one get nothing from home for the fear of Contagion which has caused all the towns and Villages in the Papal States to shut themselves up and not allow any one to pass from one place to another, however we hope soon to get back to home as we are here without Certain things. The fear of contagion has caused all the towns we pass of in home, I need not repeat our what you must have read in the Newspapers, I am only sorry it is all I believe. to the Lord Lord. Our return

home will be rather melancholy first the recollections of our dear sweet little boy, (next the
loss of ordinary friends we shall be the only
inhabitants of the Palace we live in, all the gone!
we should not be so anxious to return to such
a lonely home but for the safety of our property
which we consider rather in danger as the
poor old General who had the other half of
the Palazzo had always a guard at the door
& that, since his death seems removed, it
may be a temptation to break into it, particularly
as our English friend to whom we had let our
Canal house to for a Theatre (the brother of Mr.
Bellinis for whom the Pirata was written) the whole
place must be entirely shut up. our house
is very large and one of the best situated
in Venice so that we hope there will be little
danger in returning to it, but we have heard
nothing as yet. pray pardon my haste & in-
the only time we can get, and give my love
& Compliments to the Mr. Severn and to all
the rest of the Family who know my theory about
me. Severn is going to write something to
you, as I shall conclude & only hope that you
will pardon this hurried letter and believe me

Yours affectionately

Joseph Severn

Mr. Behnes

You must my dear Maria forgive me for not coming to England this Summer, it would certainly have been my plan if my pictures had arrived in time for the exhibition, as it is I think it quite a providence that I did not come as my poor family would have been alone and I should have had the greatest concern at such a distance & certainly returned back into the midst of these Cholera dangers which are very bad as you will know here have died ten thousands persons have died in Rome

all my friends have fled and perhaps that is the best way — yet if it had been our fate to stay in the City I should not have minded as I have no fears about me. — I hope & trust that my dear Mother is well and that you & Charlotte are also well & well Doing. — Charles & Tom I hope to hear from soon & that they will give me good news of you all as well as themselves — I have heard little or no news from England for 6 weeks as we do not get the newspapers — Good bye my dear Maria, may God bless you & give me the pleasure of seeing you another year — Your most affectionate brother Joseph.